

MAY 19 2009

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1-10 cancelled

11. (currently amended) A disposable sanitary product, a diaper, an incontinence pad, a sanitary towel, or a panty liner for absorbing body liquids, the product comprising:

a top sheet at least sections of which are permeable to liquid;
a bottom sheet at least sections of which are impermeable to liquid; and
an absorbent body disposed between said top sheet and said bottom sheet, said absorbent body comprising a storage layer for permanently storing body liquids, the storage layer having 5 to 30 weight % of hydrophilic melt-blown microfibers and 70 to 95 weight % of particulate superabsorbing material, wherein a mass per unit area of said melt-blown microfibers is 6 to 25 g/m², said melt-blown microfibers being connected to each other by a plurality of melt connections to ensure stability in a wet state in such a manner that said melt-blown microfibers form a dense, three-dimensional network which surrounds and immobilizes said particulate superabsorbing material, wherein substantially no ~~or only few~~ melt connections are provided between said melt-blown microfibers and said particulate superabsorbing material, said storage layer having a strength in a wet state, measured in a machine direction, of at least 40% of a strength thereof in a dry state.

12. (previously presented) The sanitary product of claim 11, wherein said storage layer further comprises up to 10 weight % of a further particulate or fibrous component.

13. (previously presented) The sanitary product of claim 11, wherein an average size of said particulate superabsorbing material D_{SAP} is 100 to 800 μm and a thickness of said storage layer D_{1SP} is between $D_{SAP} * 1.5$ and $D_{SAP} * 5$, between $D_{SAP} * 1.5$ and $D_{SAP} * 4$, between $D_{SAP} * 1.5$ and $D_{SAP} * 3$, or between $D_{SAP} * 1.5$ and $D_{SAP} * 2.5$.
14. (previously presented) The sanitary product of claim 11, wherein an absorption level of said storage layer is at least 2 cm, at least 3 cm, at least 4 cm, at least 5 cm, or at least 6 cm.
15. (previously presented) The sanitary product of claim 11, wherein said storage layer has a bottom absorbent layer facing said bottom sheet, said bottom absorbent layer having melt-blown microfibers of an amount of 100 to 50 weight %, 100 to 60 weight %, 100 to 70 weight %, 100 to 80 weight %, or of 100 to 90 weight %.
16. (currently amended) A disposable sanitary product, a diaper, an incontinence pad, a sanitary towel, or a panty liner for absorbing body liquids, the product comprising:

a top sheet at least sections of which are permeable to liquid;
a bottom sheet at least sections of which are impermeable to liquid; and

an absorbent body disposed between said top sheet and said bottom sheet, said absorbent body comprising a storage layer for permanently storing body liquids, the storage layer having 5 to 30 weight % of hydrophilic melt-blown microfibers and 70 to 95 weight % of particulate superabsorbing material, wherein a mass per unit area of said melt-blown microfibers is 6 to 25 g/m^2 , said melt-blown microfibers being connected to each other by a plurality of melt connections to ensure

stability in a wet state in such a manner that said melt-blown microfibers form a dense, three-dimensional network which surrounds and immobilizes said particulate superabsorbing material, wherein substantially no or only few melt connections are provided between said melt-blown microfibers and said particulate superabsorbing material, said storage layer having a strength in a wet state, measured in a machine direction, of at least 40% of a strength thereof in a dry state, wherein said storage layer has a top absorbent layer facing said top sheet, said top absorbent layer having melt-blown microfibers in an amount of 100 to 50 weight %, 100 to 60 weight %, 100 to 70 weight %, 100 to 80 weight %, or 100 to 90 weight %.

17. (previously presented) The sanitary product of claim 15, wherein a mass per unit area of said bottom absorbent layer is 2 to 10 g/m² or 2 to 5 g/m² and a fiber diameter of said melt-blown microfibers of said bottom absorbent layer is smaller than a fiber diameter of said melt-blown microfibers of said storage layer.

18. (currently amended) A disposable sanitary product, a diaper, an incontinence pad, a sanitary towel, or a panty liner for absorbing body liquids, the product comprising:

a top sheet at least sections of which are permeable to liquid;
a bottom sheet at least sections of which are impermeable to liquid; and

an absorbent body disposed between said top sheet and said bottom sheet, said absorbent body comprising a storage layer for permanently storing body liquids, the storage layer having 5 to 30 weight % of hydrophilic melt-blown microfibers and 70 to 95 weight % of particulate superabsorbing material,

wherein a mass per unit area of said melt-blown microfibers is 6 to 25 g/m², said melt-blown microfibers being connected to each other by a plurality of melt connections to ensure stability in a wet state in such a manner that said melt-blown microfibers form a dense, three-dimensional network which surrounds and immobilizes said particulate superabsorbing material, wherein substantially no ~~or only few~~ melt connections are provided between said melt-blown microfibers and said particulate superabsorbing material, said storage layer having a strength in a wet state, measured in a machine direction, of at least 40% of a strength thereof in a dry state, wherein said storage layer has a top absorbent layer facing said top sheet, said top absorbent layer having melt-blown microfibers in an amount of 100 to 50 weight %, 100 to 60 weight %, 100 to 70 weight %, 100 to 80 weight %, or 100 to 90 weight %, wherein a mass per unit area of said top absorbent layer is 2 to 10 g/m² or 2 to 5 g/m² and a fiber diameter of said melt-blown microfibers of said top absorbent layer is smaller than a fiber diameter of said melt-blown microfibers of said storage layer.

19. (previously presented) The sanitary product of claim 15, wherein said melt-blown microfibers of said bottom absorbent layer are thermally compatible with said melt-blown microfibers of said storage layer.
20. (previously presented) The sanitary product of claim 16, wherein said melt-blown microfibers of said top absorbent layer are thermally compatible with said melt-blown microfibers of said storage layer.

21. (previously presented) The sanitary product of claim 11, further comprising a porous or fibrous layer disposed between said storage layer and said top sheet to rapidly absorb liquid.
22. (previously presented) The sanitary product of claim 11, wherein a strength in a wet state is at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, or at least 90% of a strength in a dry state.
23. (previously presented) The sanitary product of claim 11, wherein said storage layer consists essentially of melt-blown microfibers and particulate superabsorbing material.